AUTHENTICK

MEMOIRS

Of the Unfortunate

VANELLA,

A *Roman* LADY,

From her *Birth* to her *Sickneſs.*

Which was occaſion'd by Jealouſy, and the racking Thoughts, that her Lover *Alexis*, a *Greecian* Prince, was on the Point of being marry'd to a Princeſs of *Greece.* In which is introduc'd her different Intrigues before and after her yielding herſelf up to him; and interſpers'd with the Adventures of ſeveral Young Perſons of Quality of both Sexes, bred up at the ſame Court with her.

To which is Added,

An EPISTLE from VANELLA at the *Bath* to her late Admirer *ALEXIS*, complaining of her being forſaken by him on Account of his intended Nuptials: In which Epiſtle is fully ſet forth the Cauſe of her Illneſs.

Heav'n has no Rage like Love to Hatred turn'd,
Nor Hell a Fury like a Woman ſcorn'd.

Mourning Bride.

LONDON:

Printed for *T. Reynolds*, in *Fleet-Street.* MDCCXXXVI.

Price One Shilling.

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MEMOIRS

THE PREFACE.

Courteous READER,

HE that tranſmits to Poſterity the Memoirs of any Perſon, ought to play the Part of an Hiſtorian, and relate nothing but what comes within the compaſs of his own Knowledge, or collected from the Writings of Perſons eminent for their Probity, and of unqueſtionable Veracity; otherwiſe he will entail an indelible ſlur upon his Reputation, his Character will be loſt, and even tho' he ſhould write Truth, yet the World will ſcarce be brought to give Credit to it. If a Pilot runs his Ship upon thoſe Quick-ſands, on which he has ſet a Mark to caution others to avoid them, would you not judge him to be a Mad-man, or wilfully blind, not to ſay any-thing worſe of him, tho' he may deſerve a worſe Epithet.

As therefore I have laid this down as an unvariable Rule, it would be an unpardonable Crime in me to deviate from it; and therefore the Reader may be aſſured that what is contained in

these Memoirs, is genuine, and the Facts literally true. I must own indeed that something of this nature, or at least what had a Tendency this way, appeared in the World about four Years since; but where they mentioned one Fact, above ten are erroneous, false and spurious, and what few are real, have been but slightly touch'd, and the whole a Gallimaufry of unconnected Stuff, the Style crude, jejune, and indigested, a Piece of Patch-work tack'd together to serve a Turn. I do not speak this out of any Malice, Pique or Prejudice, which I have to the Author, or to recommend these Memoirs; for they, who have read what I censure, will, I presume, be of the same Opinion with me, and when they peruse this, I hope, they will allow the whole Narrative well adjusted, amply and fully set forth, and the Style such as may entitle it to their Favour.

ADIEU.

AUTHENTICK

MEMOIRS

Of the Unfortunate

VANELLA,

A *Roman* LADY.

WHEN Perſons of any Note and Diſtinction happen to depart from this World, it is cuſtomary throughout EUROPE to to give ſome Account of their Lives; and as the Unhappy ROMAN Lady, who is principally the ſubject of the following Sheets (unhappy by her own Jealouſy and Miſconduct) is a Perſon of Rank and Fortune, and as remarkable as any other Lady of the Age ſhe lives in, I perſuade myſelf an Account of her Life will not be unacceptable to my Readers, eſpecially when they ſhall find many Things herein, which were conceal'd with all the care imaginable; or if they were ever brought to light, they were viſible only to ſo very few, that they may not improperly be call'd a SECRET, if that Word be taken in its Latitude.

VA-

VANELLA, whoſe Life I am now going to write, was deſcended from an ancient and noble Family, and born not very far from the City of ROME. Her noble Parents were extremely tender and fond of her during her Infancy, nor was their Affection diminiſh'd, or did their Care of her abate, as ſhe grew up. She had all the Advantages of Education that Money could procure, or the beſt Tutors give her. But their chiefeſt Care and Concern, leſt ſhe might not ſteer a right Courſe of Life, was to implant early in her Mind a true Notion of Religious Worſhip: ſhe made ſo great a progreſs therein, that ſhe was deem'd to be as chaſte and virtuous as a Veſtal Virgin, which was exceedingly pleaſing and ſatisfactory to her Parents, whoſe Love for her increas'd daily. They were wrapt up in her, and never ſo much delighted as when ſhe was in their Company, and truly her Converſation was very engaging, inſomuch that ſhe was admir'd by every one. For ſhe had a Vivacity of Wit, and a ſprightly Genius. Theſe Accompliſhments render'd her univerſally conſpicuous, and the earneſt Deſires of her Parents were to find out a proper Perſon to be her Husband, as ſoon as ſhe ſhould be capable of being let into the Secrets of the Marriage-Bed.

To effect this, as her Father was very wealthy, he propos'd to ſend her to the Court of King POLYARCHUS, a Greecian King, there to be brought up, and the chief Inducement that led him to it was the Corruption of the ROMANS, which, like an epidemical Diſeaſe, had ſpread itſelf all over ROME, and infected the major part

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of the People, and had crept in among the Senators.

Her Equipage and all other Neceſſaries being ready, ſhe ſet out for GREECE, and arriving at the Court of POLYARCHUS, ſhe was introduced to his Royal Conſort, to whom ſhe deliver'd Letters of Recommendation, and met with a gracious Reception, and was placed as one of the Virgins of the Court, who waited upon the Queen. Her Deportment for ſome time was conſonant to the Character ſhe bore, and ſhe was deſign'd as a Wife for a Colonel in the Army, for whom the King had a great Value. Her Father had the Propoſal laid before him, which he immediately approv'd, and ſent his Daughter Inſtructions how ſhe ſhould behave herſelf in that Affair. But there was a young Nobleman who frequented the Court, that had found Means to ingratiate himſelf into her good Graces, and laying hold on the OPPORTUNITY, obtain'd a Favour from her, which no prudent Woman would grant but upon honourable Terms. This was deſign'd to be kept as private as poſſible, however it did not eſcape the Ears of the Colonel, who took proper Meaſures to break off the Match, without giving the leaſt Suſpicion that he had any Knowledge or Intelligence of her Amour with the Nobleman. He and VANELLA carry'd on their Intrigue for ſome time, till at laſt ſhe diſcover'd many ſigns of Pregnancy, which increaſing daily, ſhe diſclos'd to her Lover. They conſulted what were the propereſt Methods to be taken at ſuch a Criſis, and the Reſult was that ſhe ſhould conceal it as long as ſhe could, and

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feigning to be much indiſpos'd, ſhould intreat Leave to go to the Temple of DIANA, and implore the Reſtitution of her Health: ſhe went thither, and was deliver'd of a Child in EPHESUS, who did not, by what we could learn, long ſurvive its Birth.

In this Place ſhe lies now in a languiſhing Condition, as will more fully appear in the following Pages; and tho' the Colonel (who was afterwards advanc'd to Dignity, and a Place of the greateſt Truſt) was acquainted with what had happen'd at EPHESUS, yet he was a Gentleman of ſuch Politeneſs that he did not make mention of it to any Perſon whatever, nor did he refrain paying his Viſits to the Unhappy Lady, whom he had loved entirely, and heartily commiſerated her Indiſcretion. Nay he carry'd himſelf ſo even in ſuch a nice Affair, that VANELLA did not harbour a Thought of his having the leaſt Knowledge of what ſhe had committed; though at the ſame time ſhe obſerv'd that his Viſits were not ſo frequent as uſual, and the Ardor of his Paſſion was much abated. But as things of this nature will take wing, and cannot be concealed for any conſiderable time, it was at laſt whiſper'd about at Court, of which the young Nobleman by whom ſhe was with Child. gave Notice to VANELLA, deſiring her to regulate her Actions for the future, as ſhe ſhould judge moſt convenient. The Lady now began to gueſs the true Cauſe why the Colonel did not purſue his Courtſhip; and indeed it was ſuppos'd by many, that her Misbehaviour and Folly would have occaſioned an open

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Rupture between him and her Brother. But the Colonel was a Perſon of ſo much Complaiſance and good Manners, that he careſſed him in the ſame manner as uſual, and was ſo far from ſhewing the leaſt Diſguſt, that he did not make any Alteration in the Friendſhip he profeſs'd, but ſtill entertained him Day and Night in his Houſe, ſince he was not privy to, or could help the BACK-SLIDING of his Siſter.

Whether the Queen had heard of VANELLA's Slip, is a mute Point, and wants an Ecclairciſſement; but if ſhe did, ſhe was ſo good as to ſeem a Stranger to it, and the unfortunate Lady met with a gracious Reception upon her Return to Court. The Rumour that was ſpread about the Court was ſoon hush'd, and ſhe paſſed for as good a Maid as any of the other Five that attended on the Queen in the ſame Station with her; and indeed well ſhe might, for it was ſaid that if ſhe were weigh'd in the ſame Scales with them alternately, it would be a Queſtion which of them would preponderate: this, I ſay, was the Opinion of many, but whether they had any authentick Proofs to ſupport that Opinion I cannot take upon me to determine; but the Reader will be able to make a better conjecture, when he peruſes the Sequel of theſe Memoirs.

The young Nobleman had no longer a criminal Converſation with her, but diſplay'd his Gallantry in attacking ſome of the other Virgins; one was the Neice of one of POLYARCHUS's Generals, a Nobleman of extraordinary Courage and Conduct; the ſecond was the Daughter of a

Nobleman who was a great Courtier, and the Father of the third had a power to enquire into the Accompts of the King's Army.

P. ALEXIS, the King's eldeſt Son, laid alſo cloſe ſiege to the General's Neice, but whether either of them brought her to ſurrender, is what Hiſtory does not declare; and we are left in the dark concerning the Succeſs of the young Nobleman.

ALEXIS turned his Thoughts to VANELLA who was very coy at firſt, but ſoon became more pliable; and that he might bring her the ſooner to his Lure, Capt. MODISH, who was a Dependant on the P. Lord HAUGHTY who belong'd to his Bed-chamber, and the corpulent Son of a Nobleman, who was Inſpector of the Stables, were employ'd in the Affair. They buzz'd in her Ears, by turns, the Honour that was deſign'd her, the happy condition ſhe would be in as long as ſhe liv'd, if ſhe conſented to gratify the Inclinations of P. ALEXIS. Having conſidered that ſuch a ſtate of Life was preferrable to what ſhe had led with the young Nobleman, and buoying herſelf up with the Hopes that ſome Nobleman of GREECE would not think it any Diſgrace to marry her, even tho' the P. ſhould take it in his Head to turn her off; partly thro' the ſollicitations of ALEXIS, and partly thro' the Importunity of the before-mentioned Perſons, ſhe gave herſelf up to his Embrace. The P. was naturally of an amorous Conſtitution, or was urged on by his Panders; who in hopes of rivetting themſelves in his Favour, and being advanced to higher Preferment,

ferment, ſuggeſted to him the intenſe and inexpreſſible Pleaſure of Coition, and that Variety made a vaſt Addition to Satisfaction in Fruition.

VANELLA finding herſelf big with Child, ſhe withdrew privately from Court, and retired to a Country Village, where ALEXIS viſited her ſeveral times: but her withdrawing herſelf was preſently rumour'd about the Palace, and juſt after her Departure ſhe wrote a Letter to the Queen, in which ſhe gave her a full and diſtinct Account of what had befallen her. This was communicated to King POLYARCHUS, who was much ſurpriz'd at the News; the Queen ſent for ALEXIS, and queſtion'd him concerning it, who ingenuouſly confeſſed the Fact, and excuſed himſelf in the beſt manner that the circumſtances of the Thing would allow. VANELLA ſent Letters alſo to her Brother and her Uncle, who were deeply concern'd at the Account ſhe gave them of her Misfortune, and went to ſee her. They compaſſionated her Condition, and finding there was no Relief, promiſed to uſe their utmoſt and moſt ſtrenuous Endeavours to work a Reconciliation between her and her noble Parents; which in ſome time they accompliſhed. The next thing which they thought adviſeable, was to pacify King POLYARCHUS and his Royal Conſort, and ſtrive to obtain their Pardon; herein they were likewiſe ſucceſsful; and upon conſideration it was judg'd, that of the two Evils, it was better that ALEXIS ſhould intrigue with a young Lady of VANELLA's Birth and Quality, than to frequent the publick Stews, or take up with ſome mean-ſpirited Creature, who might

be as common as any of the reſt: for as he was prompted on unchaſte Embraces, by the Perſons before-mentioned, it was thought a thing no ways impoſſible that he might fall into the Company of contaminated Courtezans, taint his Blood, and thereby prejudice his future Iſſue. Theſe were the principal Motives that induced King POLYARCHUS and his Conſort to be conciliated to VANELLA, tho' they did not approve of what ſhe had done.

The Joy, with which VANELLA received the News of having obtain'd Forgiveneſs, and a Reconciliation, is not to be expreſſed by Words; a Houſe was hired by her Uncle for her, ready furniſh'd, in a ſpacious Square, and when ſhe had Notice thereof, ſhe return'd to Town, and was frequently viſited by ALEXIS, who as a Teſtimony of his Affection, made her a Preſent of about 3000 l. of our Money to purchaſe Houſhold Furniture, and ſettled 2000 l. per Annum on her during her Life. Perceiving that the Time of her Delivery drew near, ſhe removed to a large Houſe in a Street near the Palace, and in a ſhort time after ſhe brought forth a Son, to the mutual Joy and Satisfaction of herſelf and ALEXIS.

During VANELLA's Lying-in, ALEXIS either came once a Day, or ſent to enquire after her Health, and made her very large Preſents; but his Company was more ſatisfactory to her than his Liberality and Munificence. A Time was appointed for giving a Name to their Son, or, as we term it, for chriſtening the Child; a Prieſt was ordered to attend, who came punctu-

ally to the Hour assigned; for, as he knew there would be good Cheer, he, like the rest of the Tribe, would not make the Guests wait for him, or disoblige the Lady by postponing the Execution of his Office. The Ceremony being over, he addressed VANELLA in what he called an eloquent Oration in her Praise, and the Praise of her Son, whose Name was much the same with its Father's; but it was larded with such fulsome Flattery, that she was well-pleased when he came to the last Period. A sumptuous Entertainment was provided in a proper Chamber, to which the Company retired, nor was the Doctor the backwardest in manifesting his Approbation of it, either by eating or drinking. While they were pleasing themselves with the Banquet, ALEXIS came incognito, and went into VANELLA's Chamber, embrac'd and caress'd her, kiss'd his Son, and when she told him what Name had been given him by her Directions, he smil'd, thank'd her, and was extremely satisfied with it.

But the Mirth of ALEXIS and VANELLA was not of a very long Duration; he casting his Eyes upon a young Damsel belonging to one of the Theatres, and was one of the Dancers, determined to bring her to his Lure upon any Terms whatever: Emissaries were sent to pave the Way, who by Turns plied the Gipsy with all the Rhetorick they were Masters of. But she seemed deaf to all he said, and the more they endeavoured to seduce her the more obstinate she grew to outward Appearance; for they did not go the right

Way to Work. When they had importuned her beyond Measure, she began to expostulate with them, and indeed the old Proverb seldom miscarries, viz. Virtue that parlies is near a Surrender. I am sensible, said she, of the Honour that is intended me, but if I sacrifice my Virgin-Treasure, what will become of me afterwards? It would be impossible to conceal it long, and when it is reported abroad, my Father will turn me out of Doors. Besides, should I prove with Child, it will be an indelible Disgrace. But notwithstanding all her Prudish Airs, she consented to meet ALEXIS, and hear what he had to say to her: they met, and for the Sake of about 1500l. of our Money, she yielded to what he requested. But, how great was his Surprize when he perceived that she had already parted with what he thought he had purchased at a dear Rate! this created in him such a Dislike, that he relinquished her for ever. The Matter was not carried on with such Secrecy, but it reached the Ears of VANELLA, which made her so jealous, that she could not refrain from charging him with Insincerity and Breach of Love. ALEXIS did not disown the Fact, but assured her that he had entirely forsaken her, and would not admit her into his Company for the future: she seem'd pacified at this Declaration, but the Sparks of Jealousy burnt under the Embers, which afterward burst into a violent Flame.

VANELLA proved with Child again, and ALEXIS visiting her one Evening, look'd very earnestly on the Maid that attended her; he asked

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her ſeveral Queſtions, admired her Shape, and ſaid ſhe had a handſome Face; and indeed to give her what was her Due, ſhe was very comely.

Theſe Eulogies revived VANELLA's Jealouſy, her Eyes reden'd with Rage and Envy, and ſuffering her Paſſion to gain the Maſtery over her Reaſon, was no longer able to contain herſelf. She was indeed perfectly rude, and the only Thing that can be ſaid to alleviate her Indiſcretion, was that ſhe ſeem'd to be delirious; ſhe ask'd ALEXIS how he could condeſcend to talk to her Servant, and be ſo laviſh of Encomiums in her Preſence? ſhe was ſure he had, or deſign'd to have an Affair with her; and did he think ſhe had the Patience to bear any ſuch Thing, or ſee herſelf ſlighted? ALEXIS proteſted that ſhe wrong'd him and the Maid, for that he never entertained ſuch a Thought; and endeavoured by all the endearing Expreſſions imaginable to calm her ruffled Temper: but it was loſt Labour, his Mildneſs ſerved only to exaſperate her; and as ſhe would not believe any thing he ſaid, ſhe acted the Part of a Fury, tore her Hair and Headcloths before her Servants, and at laſt, thro' the Violence of her Paſſion, fell into Fits.

No Care was wanting, no balmy Words were ſpared, to bring her to her right Senſes; but as ſoon as ſhe was reſtored to herſelf ſhe launched forth into her former wild Extravagances, and uſed ALEXIS with ſuch opprobious Language, as no other would have offer'd to one of her menial Servants: he bore them with wonderful Sedateneſs, expreſſed his Tenderneſs and Affection

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for her, and begg'd that she would permit him to convince her of his Innocence: but he might as well have spoke to the most boisterous Winds, for she would not listen to him, or give him an Opportunity of justifying himself; but suffering her tempestuous Mind to take its full Scope, the Storm increased, and she fell again into Fits. Such were the Effects of her unbridled Passion! ALEXIS manifested the deepest Concern for her Condition, fearing the bad Consequences of it; nor were his Fears chymerical, or ill-grounded, as shall be shewn presently.

VANELLA being restored to herself, began to reassume her Reason, but was so weak that she could scarce utter one Syllable, and was advised to retire to her Bed, which Advice she prudently follow'd, hoping (as it came to pass) that Sleep would compose her Spirits.

ALEXIS took his Leave, and promised to return the next Day, which he did accordingly; but in the Morning VANELLA discharged her Maid, and when ALEXIS came in, she told him that she had removed the Cause of her Illness, tho' she believed that she should never be perfectly recover'd; then looking wishfully upon him, said, Indeed you ought not to have given me such a Provocation as you have done, especially considering my present Case.

My dear Angel, answered ALEXIS, you misconstrued my Words, and would not hear what I had to alledge for myself; and I must needs own that I am sorry you have turn'd away your Servant, who was altogether innocent. But let us

pass

paſs theſe Things in Silence, and call another Subject for our Diſcourſe. He then took her into his Arms, and their Embraces were mutual, a Reconciliation was brought about, and their former Friendſhip was renewed.

In ſome time after, VANELLA was brought to Bed of a Daughter, who was ſeized with Convulſions, which attributed to the inordinate Paſſion ſhe had put herſelf into before her Delivery, as before-mentioned, which had that diſmal Effect upon the Infant, that it expired in one of the Fits, to the inexpreſſible Grief of its Parents, and the ſame Cauſe that haſten'd its Death, occaſioned the tedious Indiſpoſition of the Mother.

But this was not the ſole Cauſe of her Illneſs; for tho' the Death of her Daughter was a heavy Grief to her, yet there was ſomething elſe which ſhe laid nearer to Heart. She heard, and indeed it was a current Report, not built upon a ſandy Foundation, that ALEXIS was to eſpouſe a Greecian Princeſs, who for Beauty and Wit was a Nonpareil.

The Thoughts of this Marriage were like Arrows in her Heart; ſhe could not reſt by Day or Night, her Mind was upon the Rack, her Spirits were agitated to and fro; and what enhanced her Uneaſineſs was, that ſhe could by no Means break off the Match, and conſequently muſt be forſaken.

With ſuch perplexing Thoughts as theſe ſhe ſuffered herſelf to be continually hurry'd, indulging what was baneful to her, and never applying or ſeeking for a proper Remedy. Her Ma-

lady increasing daily, she was advised to try what Effect the Country-Air might have upon her; she hired a House a few Miles out of Town, and often resorted thither, accompany'd by her Son, who was her only Comfort: she would often gaze upon him, and as often shed a Flood of Tears, viewing in him the Image of the Father in Miniature; she sigh'd, wept, and wrung her Hands, thinking on what would speedily come to pass: but as there was no Redress, she pined so fast that she was deemed incurable.

How pernicious and destructive are Rage and Jealousy! like the Poison of Vipers, they prey upon the Vitals of Mankind: they are Monsters of a frightful Form, and yet such is our Frailty, or rather our Folly and Stupidity, that we indulge these our mortal Foes and fatal Enemies. And to what is this owing? from whence does it proceed? truly from Want of Thought and Reason.

If we would think seriously, and act the Part of good Philosophers, Prudence and the Preservation of our Health would teach us to keep off from those Adversaries of our Health, Peace and Tranquility of Mind: We ought to be as careful in shunning them, as Mariners are of avoiding Rocks and Quicksands, for the Danger is equal, and the only Difference consists in the lingering Death of the former, and the more immediate Death of the latter.

These Vices, and indeed they are Vices of a prodigious Bulk, hurry us precipitately into the most violent Extreams: to corroborate this Posi-

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tion, I might produce many Examples from Hiſtory, but the preſent Age has produced too many Inſtances, ſo that we need not aſcend higher.

The old ROMANS were bigotted to the wrong Notions of an untimely Death, and therefore often laid violent Hands upon themſelves when oppreſſed, or cauſed their Slaves to perform the execrable Deed, who were willing to obey their Maſters Commands; for immediately before the Perpetration of ſuch a bloody Action they were made Freed-Men, and Denizens of ROME. But it is evident that they were Strangers to thoſe excellent Virtues, Fortitude and Magnanimity, which teach us not only to bear Oppreſſion and Indignities, but to behave ourſelves manfully under them: for as ſuch great Men are the principal Supporters of their Country, then it neceſſarily follows, that to deſtroy themſelves is a Manifeſtation that they have not a true Love for their Country; for by their Deaths they expoſe her to the Inſults of their Fellow-Subjects, and the Invaſion of Foreigners.

From hence a Parallel may be drawn between the Body politick and the natural Body: for whoever deſtroys his own Life, either by a ſpeedy Death, as by Poiſon, Hanging, Drowning, &c. or by a ſlow and lingering one, as Grief, Sorrow, Rage, &c. demonſtrate that he is not only his own Enemy, but likewiſe a Foe to the Community of which he is a Member. If this holds true, which no Man in his Senſes can contradict, could VANELLA ſay ſhe was innocent? If an Ap-

peal had been made to her own Conſcience, that very Conſcience would have pronounced her guilty.

I have dwelt the longer upon theſe Reflections, in hopes they may have ſome Weight with thoſe unfortunate Creatures of our own Country, who give way to Paſſion, as the Roman VANELLA did, and who do not imagine that there is any Crime or Danger in it; and I heartily wiſh, that her Example may be a Caution to them to avoid the like pernicious Crime. A timely Reprehenſion of this Nature, if rightly conſidered, ought not to be taken amiſs, but rather kindly accepted as a friendly Admonition, let it come from what Quarter it will.

VANELLA, not having received any Benefit from the Air about the Town, determined, by the Advice of her Phyſicians, to remove about an hundred Miles farther; but alas! what ſignify all the Advice or Preſcriptions in the World, without the Concurrence of the Patient? This was VANELLA's Caſe, who inſtead of removing, indulged the Cauſe of her Malady, and yet ſhe complied to take the Journey, as if it was a Thing for Form and Faſhion-ſake only.

The Day before her Departure ſhe ſent a Letter to ALEXIS, acquainting him with her Intention, which he approved, hoping it would be conducive to the Reſtoration of her Health; he came in the Evening, and tarried with her till it was late, and their Diſcourſe ran upon various Subjects. At laſt VANELLA, having been ſilent for a ſmall Space of Time, ſpoke in the

following

following Manner, viz. My dear ALEXIS, it is an Increaſe of my Grief and Sorrow, to think that my bad State of Health compels me to ſeparate myſelf from you, and it may be for ever: and forgive me if I ſpeak my Mind freely, and tell you, it is ſtill a greater Addition to my Affliction, when I take into Conſideration, that this unhappy Son of our Love has not any Proviſion made for him. How will he be expoſed to the Contempt of the World if I happen to die! Who will take Care of him, or give him Education? Indeed, ALEXIS, ſuch Thoughts are a great Weight to the Burthen I am now under. Will you not take ſome Care of him? he is your Son, and juſtly claims your paternal Affection. To this ALEXIS anſwered, Madam, it is neceſſary for us to part for ſome Time, becauſe the Preſervation of your Life depends upon it, which ſhall be ever dear to me; but then I make no doubt of our meeting again, provided you will be your own Phyſician: My Meaning is, that you will conquer your Paſſion, let Reaſon take Place, and compoſe your Mind; for if you do not follow theſe Rules, it will be loſt Labour to conſult your Phyſicians, nor will all the Phyſick in the World do you any Good.

But give me Leave, Madam, to remove one Doubt of which you ſeem very tenderly to be apprehenſive, and truly I will blame you not for it, tho' you have tacitly called my Honour in Queſtion. I little imagined that you harboured a Thought of my Son's being expoſed to the World, or that he ſhould want Education ſuitable to his Birth; aſſure

assure yourself that whether you live or die, but Heaven ward off the latter) he shall not want for a Provision or Education suitable to his Birth; for as he is my Child, I will discharge punctually the Duty of a Parent. I therefore request that you would make yourself easy in that Point, which may prove an effectual Way to your speedy Recovery.

These Words were like Balm to her wounded Heart, she returned her Thanks to ALEXIS in an affectionate Manner, and said that he was her best Physician. It was late before they parted, but their parting was accompanied with mutual Embraces, and Expressions of the tendereſt Love: and early the next Morning she began her Journey, accompanied by her Son, and some of her Domesticks.

She had not travel'd above two Days Journey before she was taken ill so suddenly, that she could not proceed any further, till by the Help of Physicians, who came to her with all possible Speed, she recovered Strength enough to enable her to proceed further. She did, tho' in a very weak Condition, send a Letter to ALEXIS, in which she set forth at large her deplorable Case; to which he sent an Answer in the most tender Manner, commiserating her bad State of Health, and desiring that she would not increase it by making too large a Journey in a Day. She was so well pleased with this kind Answer, that it revived her Spirits, and added, as it were, new Life to her, so that she arrived at her Journey's End without any apparent Signs of Fatigue.

Lodg-

Lodgings having been provided for her, soon after her Arrival, she sent for two Physicians, who advised her to go to Bed, which she did as soon as it could be conveniently got ready; the next Thing they did was to prescribe an Opiate for her, which had its desired Effect, for she rested very well that Night, and appeared pretty lively the next Morning; but she did not continue long in this State, for as she began to lose her Appetite, her Health was so precarious, it frequently fluctuated, and ebb'd and flow'd like the Tide. I am not fond of giving into the Opinions of Astronomers, who affirm that all sublunary Bodies are under the Influence of the Stars and Planets; but this I must own, that at the Increase and Full of the Moon, she had a visible Share of Health, which diminished upon the Decrease of that Planet.

ALEXIS having received Intelligence of the languishing Condition in which she lay, and that there were but small Hopes of her Recovery, sent an Express to her, exhorting her not to lay any thing at Heart, but banish her Grief and Sorrow, as well for her own as for his Sake; for he still wore her Image in his Mind, which Time should deface, or lessen the Affection, which he had always professed to have for her.

She received this Advice and Declaration in the most friendly Manner, and they cherished her for some Time; but her Distemper returning with Violence, seized her enfeebled Spirits, and in a very short Space of Time, she grew [illegible] emaciated, that they were scarcely acquainted with

with her before, could ſcarce recollect one Feature of her Face. Her Sickneſs increaſed ſo faſt, that ſhe was given over by all the Phyſicians, who judging that ſhe could not live above three or four Days, thought it was in vain to preſcribe any Thing further: but at her earneſt Requeſt, and the more earneſt Deſire of Fees, they wrote Preſcriptions, which ſhe followed, tho' to no Purpoſe.

Thus have I ſhewn VANELLA's wretched Cauſe,
At once the Court's great Ornament and Grace;
Let her Example, Fair Ones, to ye prove
A Caution to avoid all vicious Love.
For, oh!
Sure-footed Vengeance, tho' it moves not faſt,
Will catch th' unwary Criminal at laſt.

FINIS.

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